



SEGA

**NOW WITH
MORE
FREEDOM FIGHTING
GOODNESS!**

**HEDGEHOG
DATING
TIPS 101:
MINA THE
MONGOOSE
TAKES
NOTES
IN
"SHE'S
GOTTA
HAVE
HIM"**

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

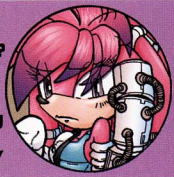


PLUS:

**WHAT IS
"THE ROYAL
SIGNET?"
EXACTLY,
AND WHAT
IMPRESSION
DID IT MAKE
ON PRINCESS
SALLY?**



**"THOSE WERE
THE DAYS."
WEREN'T THEY?
WALK DOWN
ECHIDNA
MEMORY
LANE JULIE-SU
STYLE AND
FIND OUT WHY**



DIRECT EDITION



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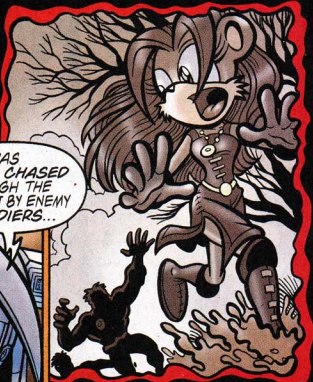
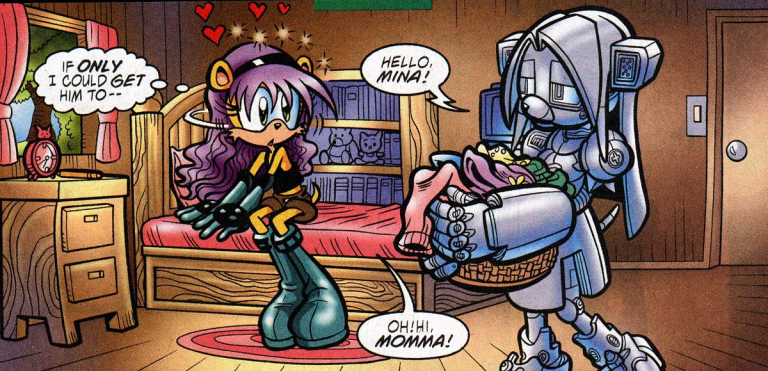
I LOVE
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SO MUCH!

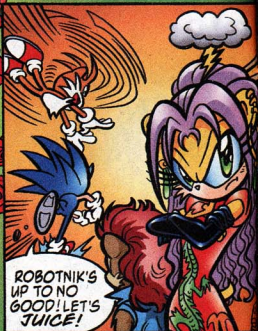
SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM CHAPTER 1

story: Karl Bollers
penciler: Steven Butler
inker: Andrew Pepoy
letterer: Jeff Powell
colorist: Jensen
editor: J.F. Gabriele
managing editor: Victor Gorelick
editor in chief: Richard Goldwater

HE'S HIP!
HAPPENING!
AND OH-SO
COOL!

"WE'D BE THE
IDEAL COUPLE!"

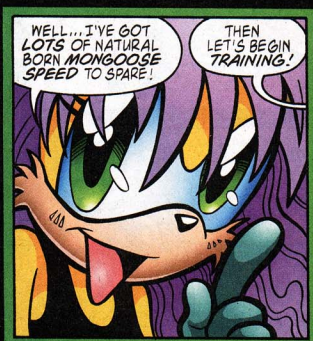




END OF CHAPTER ONE

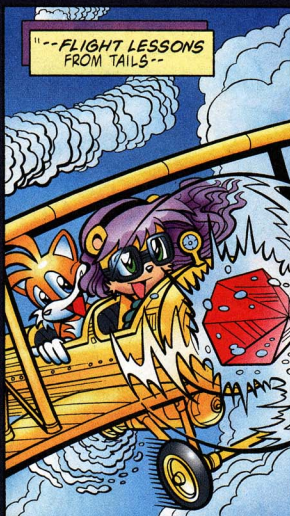
SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM

CHAPTER 2





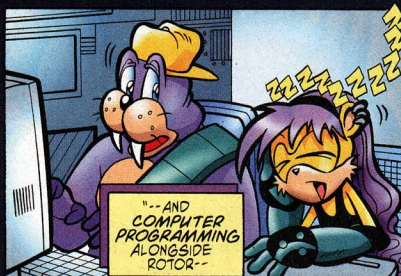
"PHYS ED
WITH SONIC--



"--FLIGHT LESSONS
FROM TAILS--



"--DEFENSIVE
SWORDPLAY AGAINST
ANTOINE--



"--AND
COMPUTER
PROGRAMMING
ALONGSIDE
ROTOR--

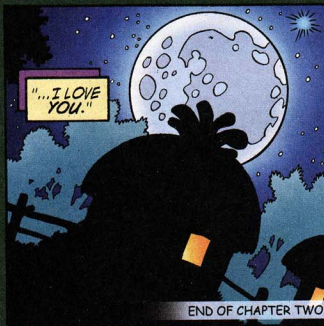
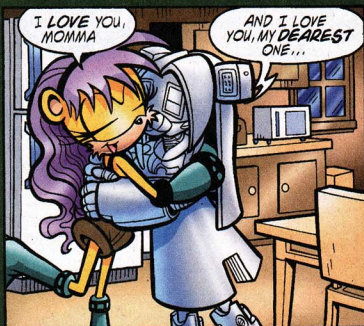
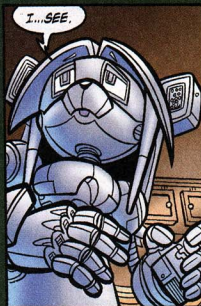
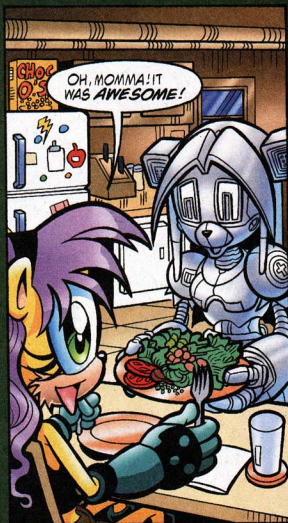


"--WILL ALL
HELP ON THE
ROAD TO
BECOMING A
WELL-ROUNDED
FREEDOM
FIGHTER."



G'NIGHT, SONIC!
G'NIGHT, TAILS! I HAD
A BLAST!

G'NIGHT,
MINA! SEE YA
TOMORROW!





LAST ONE TO
THE TRAINING COM-
POUND IS A ROTTEN
EGG!

MAY I HAVE
A WORD WITH
YOU, YOUNG
HEDGEHOG?

SURE THING MRS.
MONGOOSE!

I'M
GONNA
BEAT
YOU!

SHE'S GOTTA HAVE HIM

CHAPTER 3

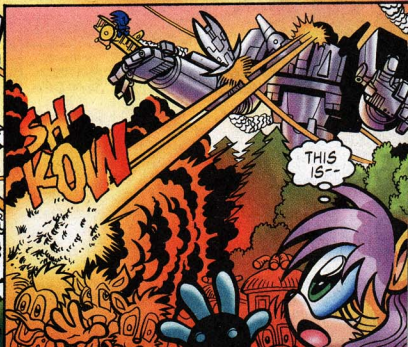
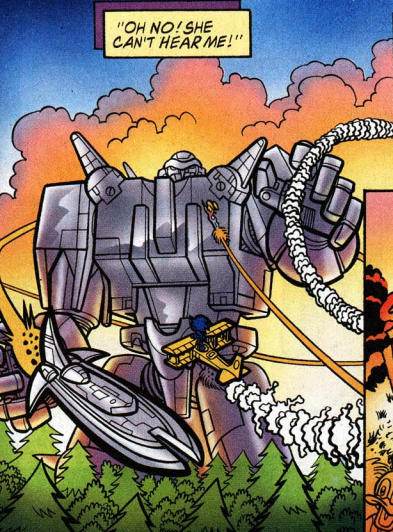
I'M SURE YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH MY DAUGHTER
ADMIRE'S AND LOOKS UP
TO YOU...

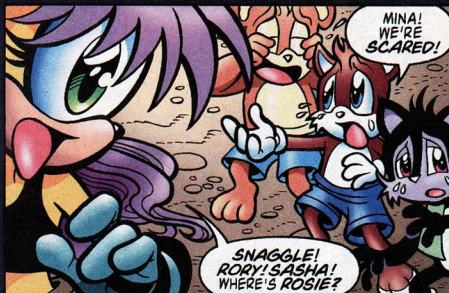
YEP!

...BUT I DON'T KNOW IF
SHE UNDERSTANDS HOW
DANGEROUS FREEDOM
FIGHTING CAN BE.

DON'T
WORRY, MA'AM.
I'LL--







MINA!
WE'RE
SCARED!

SNAGGLE!
RORY! SASHA!
WHERE'S ROSIE?



WE DUNNO--
WE GOT LOST!

DON'T
WORRY, I'LL--



"THE LAST THING I
REMEMBER WAS
ROBOTNIK'S ROBOT, ITS
FOOT ABOUT TO CRUSH
THE FOUR OF US.

"I FROZE--



--FORGOT HOW
TO BREATHE--



--AND EVERYTHING
BLANKED OUT!--

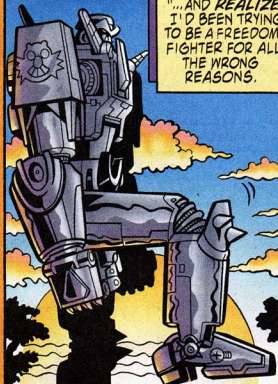


"WHEN I
SNAPPED
OUT OF
IT AT
QUACK'S
CLINIC..."

MINA!
MINA,
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OVER.

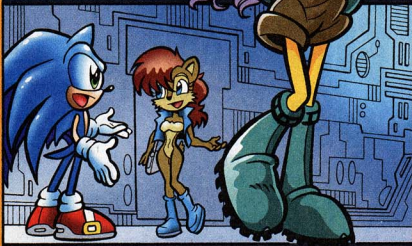
"...I FOUND OUT THAT ROBOTNIK'S **UBER-BOT** HAD BEEN STOPPED IN MID-STOMP BY ROTOR'S WONDER HACKING..."

"...AND **REALIZED** I'D BEEN TRYING TO BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER FOR ALL THE **WRONG** REASONS."



"I CARED **MORE** ABOUT SONIC, THAN ABOUT SAYING THE **WORLD**, AND IT NEARLY GOT ME KILLED."

"I WANTED TO GET HIS **ATTENTION** BUT NOT LIKE **THAT**..."



"...SO I QUIT EVEN THOUGH I WON'T HAVE AN **EXCUSE** TO BE NEAR HIM ANYMORE."

"OHHH...I'M SORRY, SWEETIE. A NICE HOT BATH WILL CHEER YOU UP!"



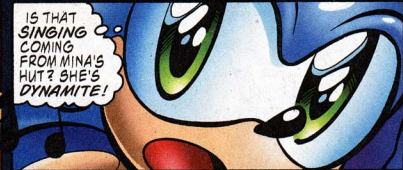
FREEDOM FIGHTING ISN'T FOR EVERYBODY, TAILS.

MAYBE SHE'LL FIND SOMETHING ELSE SHE--

I'M SURE GONNA MISS HAVING MINA AROUND.



IS THAT SINGING COMING FROM MINA'S HUT? SHE'S DYNAMITE!



AREN'T YOU COMING, SONIC?

I'LL CATCH YA LATER, BUD THIS HEDGEHOG'S GONNA CHILL FOR A WHILE...



The End

HAVING SACRIFICED HIMSELF
FOR THE GOOD OF THE MANY
LAST ISSUE,

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

IS BEING REMEMBERED
BY THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM...

Julie Su
and
MIGHTY
THE ARMADILLO

in
**THOSE
WERE
THE
DAYS**

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE,
JULIE-SU?

I'VE
BEEN LOOKING
ALL OVER FOR YOU
DURING THE PAST
FEW HOURS!

I WAS JUST
THINKING ABOUT THE
**FIRST TIME I KISSED
KNUCKLES ON THIS VERY
SPOT NOT THAT LONG
AGO--***

**DEPENDING ON HOW YOU KEEP
TIME, IT HAPPENED BACK
IN KNUCKLES*16--JUSTIN.*

WITH THE USUAL GANG--
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT & INKS DAWN BEST-PENCILS VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERS
JENSEN -COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
--REMINISCING ABOUT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA!

--AND DESPITE ALL
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH
**TOGETHER SINCE,
MIGHTY--**

--HOW
MUCH I **DON'T**
KNOW ABOUT
KNUCKLES!

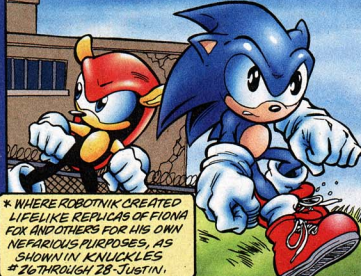
KNUX WAS NEVER ONE TO YAK
ABOUT HIMSELF MUCH, EVEN BACK
WHEN I FIRST MET HIM!

I'D
REALLY LOVE
TO HEAR
ANYTHING YOU
COULD TELL
ME!

OH-KAAAY!



YEARS AGO,
WHEN I WAS TEN, I HAD
ESCAPED FROM A PRISON CAMP
WITH THE HELP OF SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG...



* WHERE ROBOTNIK CREATED
LIFELIKE REPLICAS OF FIONA
FOX AND OTHERS FOR HIS OWN
NEFARIOUS PURPOSES, AS
SHOWN IN KNUCKLES
#26 THROUGH 28 - JUSTIN.

"SOON AFTER,
SONIC MET
UP WITH HIS
FRIEND, ROTOR,
AND RETURNED
HOME..."



DON'T BE
A STRANGER,
MIGHTY!
YOU NEITHER, DUDE!



"AND I FOUND
MYSELF ALL
ALONE..."

MOM--DAD--
SIS--EVERYONE
I KNOW--
GONE!
ROBOTICIZED BY
THAT JERK

"UNTIL..."

A SOUND!



THERE'S
SOMETHING
PAST THOSE
BUSHES!



IS IT ROBOTNIK'S
PRISON GAURDS?

HAVE THEY
TRACKED ME?

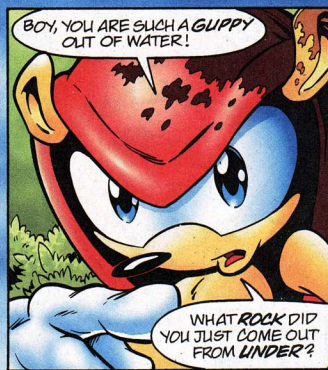
OH NO I'VE
BEEN--

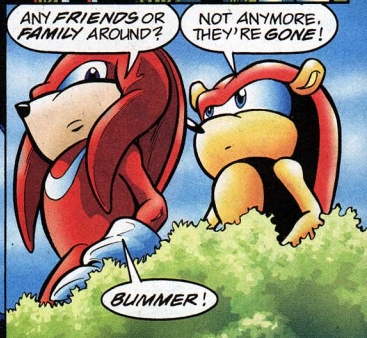


HEY THERE!

YOU FROM
AROUND THESE
PARTS?

I'M
LOOKING
FOR SOME
INFO!







I KNOW HOW THAT IS!

I LOST MY DAD, TOO!



YOU CAN HANG OUT WITH ME, IF YOU WANT!

YOU PLANNING ON STICKING AROUND?



CAN'T!

I HAVE TO GET BACK!

HOW? YOU FLY?

I SURE CAN'T!



ME EITHER!

BUT WAIT! YOU GET A LOAD OF THIS!



HOLEEEE--!!!

READY TO ROCK'N' ROLL, VEC?

WE'RE GOOD TO GO ON YOUR SAY-SO--

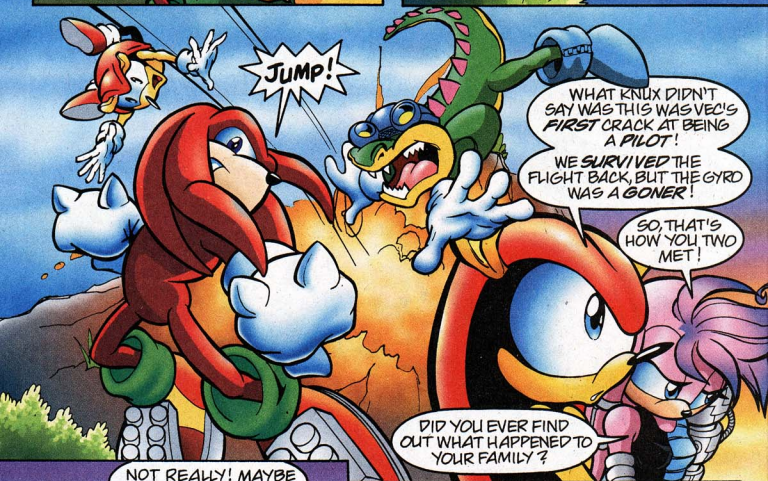
SO GIVE THE WORD AND WE'RE OFF LIKE A BIRD!



HOLD TIGHT, MIGHTY!
VEC, LET
'ER RIP!



**AND AWAY WE
GOOOOO--!**



JUMP!

WHAT KNUX DIDN'T
SAY WAS THIS WAS VEC'S
FIRST CRACK AT BEING
A PILOT!

WE SURVIVED THE
FLIGHT BACK, BUT THE GYRO
WAS A GONER!

SO, THAT'S
HOW YOU TWO
MET!

DID YOU EVER FIND
OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO
YOUR FAMILY?

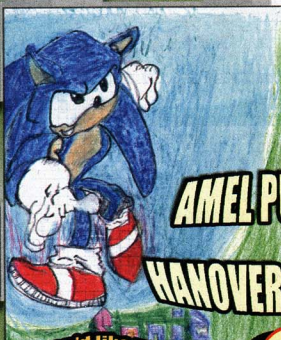
NOT REALLY! MAYBE
SOMEDAY I WILL!

IN THE MEANTIME,
I MAY HAVE LOST
KNUX--

--BUT I STILL HAVE
YOU AND THE REST
OF THE GUYS!



**NEXT:
VECTOR SPEAKS HIS PIECE!**



AMEL PUSKAR

HANOVER PARK, IL



**If you'd like your
drawing printed,
please send it to:
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c/o Archie Comic
Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box #419
Mamaroneck, NY
10543-0419
SORRY...
**ART WILL NOT
BE RETURNED!****



**WESLEY CANO
ARVADA, CO**



**ROBYN
GARBACZ
LISLE, IL**



The Royal Signet

Writer Romy Chacon pencils Hix Mahwhitney
inker Pam Sklund letterer J. Powell
colorist Jensen editor J. F. Gabrie

JUST LOOK AT HER. I'M SO GLAD WE COULD HAVE THESE TIMES TOGETHER.

WE MISSED SO MUCH SINCE SHE WAS TAKEN FROM ME WHEN I WAS AN INFANT.

SALLY, TAKE A GANDER AT THIS. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL TULIP, DON'T YOU THINK?

FEATURING:
PRINCESS
Sally

IF ANTOINE WERE HERE HE'D SAY, "ZANK YOU, MY QUEEN, BUT I ZINK MY UPPER LIP IS A LITTLE MORE ESSSS-TINGUISHED OF MY TWO LIPS, NON?"

HAHAHAHA... THAT'S SO AMUSING.

BRRR...I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE WORN SOMETHING MORE.

HEY MOM, LET ME GIVE YOU MY VEST TO WEAR.

BUT...

NO BUTS. YOU JUST GOT OVER A COLD. I'D PREFER YOU NOT CATCH IT AGAIN.



A close-up of Rosie and Sally. Rosie, with red hair and a blue top, is hugging Sally from behind. Sally, with white hair and a blue top, is smiling and holding a blue object.

OH, ROSIE, I HAVE TO
ADMIT I ALMOST FORGOT
THAT TODAY WAS JULAYLA'S
BIRTHDAY.

BUT YOU *DIDN'T*.
SALLY DEAR, THAT'S
WHAT COUNTS.

A wider shot of the three characters in a rustic room. Rosie is on the left in a blue top and orange skirt. Sally is in the middle in a yellow top and blue boots. Julayla is on the right in a blue dress and white hair. They are standing on a wooden floor.

MY QUEEN, FORGIVE
MY *RUDENESS* FOR NOT
GREETING YOU IN THE
PROPER MANNER

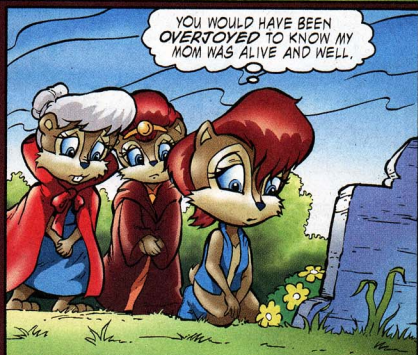
ROSIE, THERE IS NO NEED
FOR FORMALITIES. AFTER ALL
THE YEARS TAKING CARE OF
SALLY FOR ME I CONSIDER
YOU *FAMILY*.

A close-up of the three characters hugging. Rosie is on the left, Sally is in the middle, and Julayla is on the right. They are all smiling and looking at each other.

OH, THANK
YOU, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

CALL ME
ALICIA. I
INSIST.

THANK YOU...
ALICIA.





AND I DID HAVE THE **STRENGTH**... TO BE THE LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AGAINST ROBOTNIK, AND ONE DAY BE THE FUTURE **QUEEN** TO THE FREE PEOPLE OF MOBIUS.

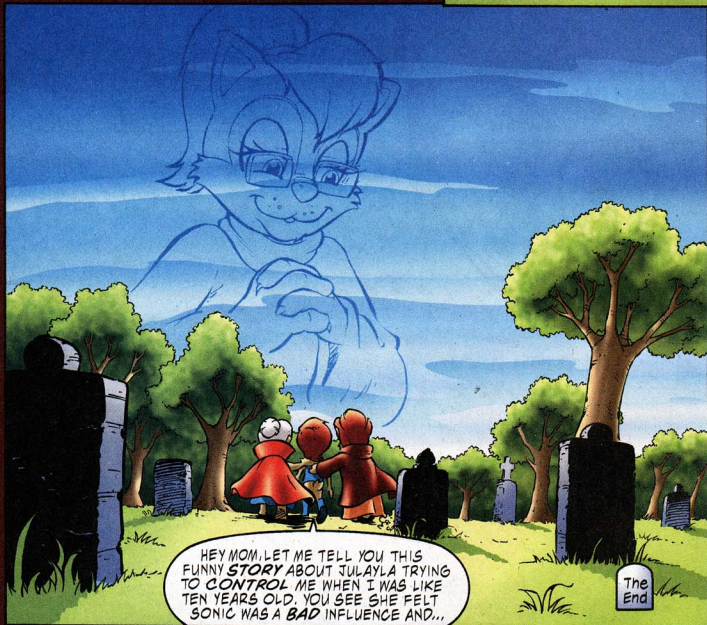


AND I **THANK** YOU FOR THAT WITH **ALL** MY HEART AND SOUL.

I LOVE YOU, TEACHER. MAY YOU CONTINUE TO REST IN PEACE.

AND I **SECOND** THAT, OLD FRIEND. I WILL FOREVER BE IN YOUR **DEBT** FOR THE WONDERFUL JOB YOU AND ROSIE DID RAISING MY LITTLE SALLY INTO SUCH A **RESPONSIBLE** AND RE-SOURCEFUL YOUNG LADY.

YOU WOULD BE **PROUD**, AS I AM OF HER.



HEY MOM, LET ME TELL YOU THIS FUNNY **STORY** ABOUT JULAYLA TRYING TO **CONTROL** ME WHEN I WAS LIKE TEN YEARS OLD. YOU SEE SHE FELT SONIC WAS A **BAD** INFLUENCE AND...

The End

SEGA ZONE

Off Panel



THIS JUST IN!



As I write this I am knee-deep in Sonic #125. As you know, it commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the Sonic comic. The entire issue is written, half the pages are penciled and lettered, ready to be inked, while the other half is still being penciled. This a difficult issue to control because we had to go beyond the norm to make it a special issue. We're dropping down the number of ads and feature pages (i.e. letters, fan art, etc.) to give you as much story as possible. We're also pulling the same trick we did in Sonic #50... making it a jam issue. The pencilers scheduled are: Dave Manak, Art Mawhinney, Ron Lim, Dawn Best, Steven Butler, Spaz, and J. Axer. Inkers also share "jam" responsibilities, and they are: Pam Eklund, Andrew Pepoy, Nelson Ribiero, Jim Amash and Conor Tomas. Others to be confirmed at a later date. I can't wait for this project to be done and in your hands... so let me get back to my job of ensuring that happens. See you in 4 weeks. Lates, **19**

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sonic The Hedgehog #121:

"Prince and the Revolution" Where is Prince Elias Acorn. St. John and Hershey have finally tracked him down... and so have Robotnik's forces. Sonic and the Freedom Fighters are on the way to save him and take him back. Will he go back with them? By Benny, Ron with Jim and Pam. Then there is: "Afterlife, Pt. 1" Knuckles speaks to his ancestors, specifically the Guardians of the Floating Island that have passed on, in the Afterlife. Find out what about. By Ken and Dawn. Also in this issue: "Song Bird" Mina is forced on stage by Sonic, who believes she can sing her heart out. Is he right or will she run off the stage? By Romy, Steven and Jim.



Send letters To:

SONIC-GRAMS #120

c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box #419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

E-MAIL:

Sonic@kenpenders.com
WEBSITE: www.archiecomics.com
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.
Thanks for understanding!

Dear Sonic-Grams:

After being an attentive fan for a good 18 issues now, and being a young (15.5 yrs. old) indie comics artist myself, I thought it time to write in to you. I have, after all, been a Sonic fan since the beginning of middle school, in all incarnations and reincarnations, both old and new. I wanted to express some opinions and commentary on the current state of the STH comic and its staff.

First off, colorists. I just got ish. 117, and the coloring, linework, and pencilling for "The Tortoise and the Hedgehog" all seem to just... Click. The expressions are very fluid, and toony without being too exaggerated. The action is fluid as well, and the smooth, flowing lineart provided by Mr. Mawhinney just fits this style perfectly. But most of all, Jason Jensen's shiny, simple, accurate but opulent coloring really makes the whole deal "pop". With Rory Chacon's "old-school" depiction of Sonic & friends, the art in this story reminds me of the original Sega Genesis video game, the one that started it all - and especially the cover & publicity illustrations for aforementioned vid. It seems to me that while the more typical, darker coloration used in "modern" depictions of Sonic would have worked, it would have been little more than functional, and would serve to dampen down the comedy of the story - subsequently, allowing the underlying themes and lesson to be ignored. Speaking of this more modern coloring style, J.D. and Amy Ray do a wonderful job of it. My favorite penciler for them to work with is, by far, Jeff Axer. Their subtle, yet deep, and occasionally provocative separations work very well in conjunction with his professional, smooth, yet subtly detailed pencils, and the emotions that they themselves can provoke. Take a look at "...A Girl Named Hope" in ish. 108, particularly the 1st panel with Hope in it, the battle scene bottom of next page, the depiction of Sonic on the next, and the running & crying Hope directly below that.

Speaking of which, I've been a fan of Axer's since, oh, I'd say 1998, much, much longer than he's been doing work for STH: The Comic. I can't think of a better penciler for the comic - in fact, he could have been a good penciler for the comic several years ago, even.

Anyway, to wrap up this gargantuan tome of a letter, I was wondering if any T-shirts have been created of STH: The Comic, and if so, where could I get one? -With all the way-past-coolness in my soul, Abe Flower/AKA, 15, Monroe, WA

We also think both Art Mawhinney and J. Axer are the bomb, along with Spaz, Steven Butler and Dawn Best, providing the series with both a diverse creative look as well as one of the most talented stable of artists. And like you, we think many of the images they've drawn would make nifty T-shirt designs.

Dear Sonic crew,

Let me start off by saying that I've been a subscriber to Sonic since 1995 (Sonic #20 to be specific) and this is the FIRST time I've written a letter to you guys. I have every comic (including specials and crossovers) from #0-#118 save about 7. And this seems to be the first time that I have found reason great enough for me to write. Well I'm sure you're expecting a whole lot of mail considering the events of Sonic #118. But before I get to that, I first have a few things I'd like to get off my back (after all, I have over 100 issues to discuss -P).

I'd like to say that things have improved greatly from the first issues, which featured non-continuous comedic stories. Although I found these great, but now when I re-read them,

there seems to be something missing. The art and concepts in the stories are somewhat childish and not as much to my appeal anymore. There seemed to be more words back then, so the stories did last longer than more recent issues, but I enjoy the shorter yet more action-packed issues. I congratulate you on that. I especially like Sonic's sharper, long quills as opposed to the older ones. The magazine approach to the cover isn't too bad. I liked the action packed colorful old ones better, as these seem to have a lot of white space on them. I really like the Sonic emblem to the top left of the cover though. Off panel is also pretty good, as the overall style of it is a refreshing change.

Another thing that I just believe I should discuss, although not spurred by anything, is the issue of who Sonic's girl should be. I actually think, despite what others might say, that Sonic and Amy make the best couple out of the three girls chasing him. Though Amy is often seen as an insane immature school girl obsessing over Sonic, I think they actually make a pretty good couple. I can imagine them on a date better than I can imagine Sonic going out with Sally or Mina. They just seem more compatible (after all, they say opposites attract.)

Aliens from outer space? Don't you think that's a bit too big of a plot hole? It was a good story but it seemed a bit pointless to me. Heart to heart was a pretty good story, considering I don't like St. John. To see him admit his failure was pretty amusing and yet let me see a less-shallow part of his personality. I also liked his and Hershey's suits. Now, about Knuckles' story... Let me just say "HOW COULD YOU!!" Killing off Knuckles? Sure, it really touched me and got to me, but not in the way that I liked it. My English teacher says that sorrow and pity makes the best story, so I'll admit that it was a pretty good story. But Knuckles at one time had his own comic! I was very sad that it was cancelled, but I understood your reason for doing this. But killing him off was just absurd. Now I know complaining will not bring him back (or it might, you never know -P), so I suppose I'll compliment you on the way you broke it. Panel 6 of the second to last page of the story was really well done. I could just see the surprise and shock in their faces. I want to know what Lien-Da meant by, "If only he knew whom he was truly addressing!" Did I miss something here? And the wording of the last panel of the Knuckles story was very well done. It was realistic and you could really see the sadness on Lara's face. It was very well done considering the fact that you killed my single greatest idol in all of my life. Although it would ruin the serious moods of his stories if by some magical power he could come back to life, a very large part of me hopes this happens...

Well after nearly 9 years of me not writing, you've finally heard all I have to say. I'd like to thank you for reading my letter, I think I will write more in the future. And although I know there is a very small chance my letter will be printed, if it is, feel free to edit out any of my ramblings, as I know my letter is actually quite long. And no matter what ya'll do (not to be taken as encouragement), I will always be a hard-core Sonic fan. Jonathan Chang, Age 14, Houston, TX

Feel free to send your comments along anytime, Jon. We love getting mail, especially when they're as thoughtful and incisive as yours. No doubt after reading this issue you're more than aware Knuckles isn't going anywhere, just embarking on a brand new journey. Where it ends up is

anyone's guess, but we'll guarantee that boring it won't be. Regarding the girlfriend dilemma in Sonic's life, if our flagship character still hasn't solved his problem after 60 years, what makes you think everyone's favorite hedgehog will find a solution anytime soon? Finally, though you make like our new format, others aren't so sure, as our next reader has his say.

Dear Sonic Crew,

I have been wondering why you have been making the Sonic stories so short. If you say because of Knuckles, give him his own comic. I have been a follower of Sonic for about 3 years now, and way back which Sonic comics had a on-going story where Sonic had to do a series of things which would happen over about 3 or 4 comics. With Robotnik back, things happen too quickly so that it reads like: Once upon a time Robotnik tried to blow up Knothole Village so Sonic and Tails came and saved the day, the end. Please make them longer. I have a few questions real fast.

(1) What happened to Rotor? Every time you show the Freedom Fighters everyone is there except Rotor, where is he? (2) Are you guys ever gonna make Knuckles his own comic again? (3) Will the former guardians of Angel Island ever be mentioned again? Or have an appearance as a ghost? Stay cool, your biggest and fastest fan, Ben, Lancaster, age 11

Ben, where have you been? Rotor is up north with his family last time we checked. As much as we love the idea of Knuckles getting back his own series, it's not going to happen in the foreseeable future, but given the way things work around here, that could change at a moment's notice. And you'll no doubt have noticed that our current Knuckles storyline has addressed your question on both counts.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I love the Knux stories you guys are putting out. They've always been a great addition to the Sonic the Hedgehog comics. I can't wait to see what's next. ^ ^

Tom Harritt's letter in issue 118 reminded me of what I like best about your Sonic the Hedgehog series. It never stays the same for too long, always evolving. If one looks at every twenty-five issues, 1-25, then 26-50, and so on, one always gets a different style. (I must say, though, that the issues from 26 up until 46 are my favorites.)

Anyhow, keep making this comic way past cool. You're doing great so far. :) Bree

We've never been ones to rest on our laurels, Bree, as we believe our readers would get even more bored if we stuck with the same ol' same ol' month in and month out. From the wide assortment of questions you guys ask us about our characters all the time, the only way we're going to find out the answers is if we explore something new and different every issue.

And that's it for this month, gang. We'll see you in 30.